# Lung Cancer Screening





#### **POINTS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR PATIENTS**

- Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) is the only recommended screening approach for lung cancer.
- Screening is not a substitute for quitting smoking.
- Screening should be done annually until the patient no longer needs to be screened or no longer meets the screening criteria.

Reinforce the importance of smoking cessation and abstinence.

 Screening is a process. An abnormal LDCT scan does not necessarily mean cancer. Additional testing may be needed to determine a diagnosis.

## **BEFORE** THE CLINICAL ENCOUNTER

Determine your patient's eligibility.

This checklist may be completed with the assistance of a nurse, physician assistant, or other medical assistant.

Is the patient 55 to 77 years old? (55 to 80 years old for patients with private insurance)	YES	NO
Is the patient a current smoker or former smoker who has quit within the past 15 years?	YES	NO
Does the patient have at least a 30 pack-year smoking history? (See the <i>Pack-year Calculator</i> below.)	YES	NO
Is the patient asymptomatic for lung cancer with no personal history of lung cancer?	YES	NO
Is the patient healthy enough to have lung surgery?	YES	NO
Is the patient willing to receive potentially curative treatment?	YES	NO
PACK-YEAR CALCULATOR  (20 cigarettes = 1 pack)  Number of years smoked per day	Pac	k-years

#### **DURING THE CLINICAL ENCOUNTER**

Use the *Discussion Guide* (see reverse)

Confirm the following points with the patient:

Discuss the potential benefits and harms of screening
Discuss the impact of comorbidities on appropriateness of screening
Confirm that the patient is willing and able to undergo diagnostic procedures and treatment for lung cancer
Discuss the importance of adherence to annual screening
Discuss the importance of smoking cessation and abstinence
Provide tobacco cessation interventions if appropriate
Document the discussion in the patient's medical record, note that a patient decision aid (the <i>Discussion Guide</i> on the reverse) was used

## AFTER THE CLINICAL ENCOUNTER

Establish the next steps.

**If the patient wants screening**, provide a written order with the following elements included:

Patient's date of birth
Actual pack-year smoking history
Current smoking status; for former smokers, the number of years since quitting
Statement that the patient is asymptomatic
National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the ordering practitioner

If patient declines screening, document decision in the medical record

**If patient is unsure about screening** or wants more time, consider scheduling a follow-up visit to discuss screening and provide additional educational resources..

Adapted from Lung Cancer Screening: A Clinician's Checklist developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, www.ahrq.gov